

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 EUR-12

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O R 130801Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5255

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 4881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD

ENDING NOON APRIL 13.

ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOTE THAT SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE AND NOFORN INDICATORS HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM 1975 OFFENSIVE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT BEGINNING WITH THIS REPORT. IN FUTURE REPORTS, INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FALLING INTO THIS CATEGORY WILL BE NOTED, AND ANY ITEMS NOT SO MARKED MAY BE USED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

1. GENERAL

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APART FROM A NEW NVA/VC ONSLAUGHT AT XUAN LOC APRIL 13 IN

WHICH THE ATTACKERS AGAIN TOOK HEAVY LOSSES BEFORE BREAKING OFF, THE SITUATION HAS REMAINED GENERALLY QUIET IN MR-3 DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. IN MR-4, A SHELLING OF CAN THO RESULTED IN 11 KILLED AND 42 WOUNDED PLUS 300 DWELLINGS DESTROYED. GVN FORCES CONTINUE TO FIGHT WELL AND ARE INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE NVA/VC.

2. MR-3.

THE NVA/VC LAUNCHED A NEW ATTACK AGAINST XUAN LOC FROM THE NORTHEAST AT 0450 HOURS APRIL 13. AFTER THE ATTACKERS BROKE OFF AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS, THE DEFENDING 43D REGT COUNTED 235 NVA KILLED. THE GVN FORCES HAD PLANNED ARTILLERY STRIKES WELL FOR AN ATTACK ON THAT QUARTER AND INFLECTED MOST OF THE NVA CASUALTIES BY ARTILLERY. GVN FORCES NOT ONLY DESTROYED ONE NVA TANK AND CAPTURED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF WEAPONS INCLUDING CREW SERVED, BUT ALSO CAPTURED A SMALL AMMO DUMP WITH ABOUT ONE HALF TON OF AMMO.

IN LONG AN, HEAVY CASUALTIES INFLECTED ON ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH NVA DIVISION BY THE 12TH REGT OF THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION AND THE LONG AN TERRITORIALS HAVE FORCED TWO OF ITS THREE REGIMENTS TO PULL BACK FROM THE ACTION. THE NVA FORCES IN LONG AN ARE DESCRIBED BY MR-3 HEADQUARTERS AS GREEN RECRUITS.

IN THE OLD MR-2 AREAS OF NINH THUAN (PHAN RANG) AND BINH THUAN (PHAN THIET) GVN FORCES ARE COMING UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE. ON APRIL 12, THE RF/PF FORCED PROTECTING PHAN THIET WERE ENGAGED TWICE BY NVA/VC IN THE MIDDLE HOURS OF THE DAY. MR-3 HQ HAS REINFORCED TROOPS AT PHAN THIET WITH ONE REGT NEWLY REFORMED FROM THE 2D DIV IN BINH TUY AND WITH TWO BNS FROM THE NEWLY REFORMED 24TH RANGER GROUP, ALSO FROM BINH TUY. THERE ARE ALSO STRONG INDICATIONS THAT PHAN RANG IS BEING MENACED INCREASINGLY BY FORCES MOVING DOWN QL 1 FROM THE NHA TRANG AREA.

3. MR-4

FROM 2130 TO 2300 YESTERDAY, THE DENSELY POPULATED CENTER CITY AREA OF CAN THO WAS HIT WITH 28 MIXED 82 MM MORTAR AND 105 HOWITZER ROUNDS. CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THE SHELLING NOW ESTIMATED AT 11 DEAD AND 42 WOUNDED. 300 DWELLINGS WERE DESTROYED BY A RESULTING FIRE. 105 SHELLS CAME FROM BINH MINH DISTRICT TOWN AREA, 7 KM SOUTHEAST OF CAN THO ACROSS

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RIVER IN VINH LONG PROVINCE. MORTARS WERE FIRED FROM POSITION 4 KMS NORTHEAST CAN THO ALSO IN VINH LONG. VNAF CLAIMS TO HAVE KNOCKED OUT ONE 105.

OVER-ALL ACROSS THE DELTA ACTIVITY REMAINED AT ABOUT THE LEVEL OF RECENT DAYS. GVN UNITS ARE ACTIVE AND CLAIM 446 NVA/VC KILLED IN PAST 24 HOURS AS OPPOSED TO 53 GVN KILLED. AN ARVN INITIATED OPERATION IN PHONG DINH RESULTED IN 168 NVA/VC REPORTED KILLED AND THREE CAPTURED. CAPTIVES WERE IDENTIFIED

AS COMING FROM NVA 4TH DIVISION REGTS.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN BINH MINH DISTRICT TOWN AREA OF VINH LONG.

A SMALL GROUP OF NVA/VC REMAIN ENTRENCHED ON HIGHWAY 4 AT THAT POINT. TERRITORIAL FORCES EXPECT TO CLEAR THE BLOCK AND REOPEN THE ROAD BY DAY'S END.

IN THE NORTHERN DELTA ACTIVITY FELL OFF WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A HEAVY CONTACT 7 KM NORTHEAST OF BEN TRANH DISTRICT TOWN, NEAR HIGHWAY 4 IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE.
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